UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Fast vs. Slow: Maybe That's Not the Question

There seems to be confusion in news accounts - as blog readers will know from past postings - over whether the decision regarding the SAT is moving faster or slower than before. The chair of the systemwide Senate issued two statements regarding the SAT issue.

What seems to be the bottom line is that a more detailed timeline will be released after the Academic Council meets on July 22nd. How long after the 22nd there will be a release is unclear.

Statement #1:

Statement from UC Academic Senate on admissions review

UC Office of the President, July 13, 2026

After published reports emerged today (July 13) that the University of California's Academic Senate voted on July 10 to rescind its review of standardized testing admissions, Ahmet Palazoglu, the University of California's Academic Senate Chair, issued the following statement:

"The Academic Senate is not rescinding its commitment to a comprehensive review of standardized testing in admissions. Recognizing the significance of this issue, the Academic Senate is revising its timeline while ensuring the forthcoming review is thorough, evidence-based and informed by faculty expertise."

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/statement-uc-academic-senate-admissions-review.

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Statement #2:

Statement from UC Academic Senate Chair Ahmet Palazoglu on review of UC admissions

UC Office of the President, July 14, 2026

"The Academic Senate's comprehensive review of the University's undergraduate admissions policies will align with the Board of Regents' timeline to deliver a policy recommendation on the use of standardized tests in admissions by the end of the 2026–27 academic year (June 2027 for our campuses based on the quarter system). The separate review of UC's A-G framework is not tied to the same timeline. ***A new plan from the Academic Senate will be available after the Academic Council meeting on July 22, 2026.*** *The goal of this A-G policy review is to consider how UC defines and evaluates college readiness in a rapidly changing educational environment."*

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- OMB Comment-a-thon
- Defend Research Funding
- Trump admin drops appeal in AAUP et al. v. Trump
- 2025: The Year UC Faculty Fought Back and Won
- Faculty Join SB895 Rally to Save Science, Save Lives

Remaking the University

- How to Make AI Good for the Humanities (Guest Post) - 6/20/2026
- A Response to the Report on Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences by One of Its Targets (Guest Post) - 6/15/2026
- We Need to Build Actual Political Support for the Humanities (Guest Post) - 6/12/2026

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
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- California Professor

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- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/statement-ahmet-palazoglu-chair-ucs-academic-senate-review-uc-admissions.

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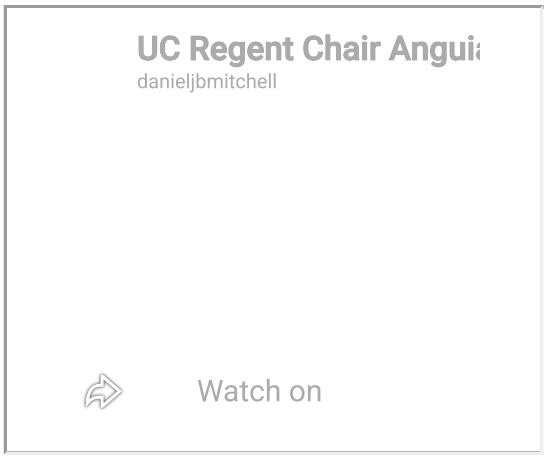
Perhaps more significant than the statements above is the statement of the new Regents Chair, Maria Anguiano. She essentially declared the old Master Plan dead. And then she proposed, without explicitly saying so, that the Regents spend the next year coming up with a substitute, although she did not mention the other two components of higher ed in California: CSU and the community colleges. Nor did she mention the state legislature which has been doing *ad hoc* tinkering with the old Master Plan, as blog readers will know. The SAT decision is to be but one element in the year-long review she announced.

Although her statement was a personal one, it's hard to imagine she didn't discuss what she was going to say with President Milliken and other Regents. An excerpt from her statement is below:



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vXplgoFICc or https://ia600703.us.archive.org/14/items/regents-7-14-2026/Anguiano%20on%20Master%20Plan%2C%20SAT%2C%20%26%20Priorities%207-14-2026.mp4.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC, UC Regents

ICYMI - Library Thief

From KTLA: *A Bay Area man was sentenced to a year of home confinement and three years of supervised release for stealing rare and historical Chinese manuscripts from the UCLA library. The U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday the sentence was handed down to Jeffrey Ying of Fremont after he pleaded guilty to one count of theft of major artwork, a felony, in October.*

More specifically, the DOJ said Ying's guilty plea relates to a theft that occurred in December 2024 in which he stole a 17th century Qing dynasty manuscript. Ying, 39, who used several aliases including "Jason Wang," "Alan Fujimori" and "Austin Chen," admitted during his guilty plea hearing that he stole the rare manuscripts from the UCLA library between December 2024 and July 2025. Since they are so valuable, they are not in regular circulation and thus must be reserved and checked out...

Ying would rent them – bringing them home for days at a time – and then returned a "dummy manuscript" to the library instead of the authentic one. According to the Justice Department, Ying would travel to and from China "within several days of the thefts." ... According to the DOJ, restitution in the case will be determined at a later date. Previous reports indicate that the value of the stolen items exceeded $215,000. It was unclear whether any of the manuscripts have been recovered.

politics (2572) UC (2200) UC Regents (1937) health care (1466) State Budget (1298) governor (1152) diversity (1061) UC budget crisis (984) UC-Berkeley (939) pension (664) pensions (594) admissions (585) athletics (567) tuition (544) CSU (431) transportation (404) UC-Davis (381) online education (340) UCOP (321) uc retirement (319) traffic (310) ucrp (301) audio (291) UC enrollment (285) new hotel-conference center (283) UC-San Diego (273) enrollment (264) community colleges (258) LAO (238) UC-Irvine (186) fund raising (178) UC-Santa Barbara (164) UC-San Francisco (162) UC-Santa Cruz (159) controller (155) faculty center (147) UC-Riverside (143) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (118) Master Plan (115) faculty pay (109) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) parking (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (61) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) copyright (36) UC Berkeley (35) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (15) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UCpolitics (4) UC Irvine (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

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Fast vs. Slow: Maybe That's Not the Question

ICYMI - Library Thief

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Removed

Full story at https://ktla.com/news/local-news/man-gets-366-days-in-federal-prison-for-stealing-rare-chinese-manuscripts-from-ucla/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Yale Deal - Part 6

From the Yale Daily News: *Yale President Maurie McInnis is arranging to meet with graduate and undergraduate student leaders in a confidential meeting as the University pursues a settlement with the Trump administration. The proposed meeting will include McInnis, Yale College Council President Alex William Chen '28, YCC Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28, Graduate and Professional Student Senate President Raekwon Fuller DRA '27 and Graduate Student Assembly chair Anushka Potdar GRD '29. According to Fuller, the meeting date has yet to be determined. Undergraduate student leaders have been vocal opponents of any settlement with the Trump administration that would compromise Yale's independence...*

Potdar declined to comment on the future meeting, citing its confidentiality...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/mcinnis-to-meet-with-undergraduate-graduate-student-government-leaders.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:25 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, politics, Yale

Straws in the Wind - Part 404

From Inside Higher Ed: *The University of North Texas has paid for journalism professor Tracy Everbach and her colleagues to attend a certain conference every year since she started at the university in 2004. Until this year. In a June 30 memo to Everbach and at least five other journalism professors, university administrators said that funding membership or sponsorship costs for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the organization that hosts the conference she plans to attend and present at next month, violates a Texas law banning diversity, equity and inclusion measures at public institutions.*

Scheduled for early August in New Orleans, the AEJMC conference has a Jazz & Jambalaya theme, which showcases the "rich histories" and "diverse contributions" of community members, according to the association's website. The schedule says it will feature "thought-provoking programming, diverse voices and exciting opportunities to learn and connect." ...

Let's do it again, let's do it again, let's...
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Unrelated
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Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 176
You'll Just Have to Wait

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty/academic-freedom/2026/07/09/north-texas-denies-faculty-conference-funding.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of North Texas

Grants' Tomb - Part 2 (follow-up)

From Inside Higher Ed: *The White House in late May proposed a rule that would cement its control over essentially all federal grant making, including research funding and Education Department grants. Among other changes, the proposal from the Office of Management and Budget says political appointees, not peer reviewers, would be the primary deciders of who gets grants, and says officials could yank funding even after it's awarded and research or another project has begun.*

Opponents in and outside higher ed say the politicization could undercut research and all the societal benefits that flow from it, and the possibility of more midgrant cancellations could inject further instability into a sector the Trump administration has already destabilized.

Through social media, video calls, Substacks and petitions, scientists, universities and groups representing them have called for a flood of public comments. They've shared resources listing objectionable provisions they've identified in the more than 400-page proposal...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/science-research-policy/2026/07/07/comments-flood-omb-proposal-political-control.

Our earlier post on this matter is at:

https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/07/grants-tomb.html.

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Note: The deadline for public comments was July 13th.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Yale Deal - Part 5

Message from the president of Yale

Monday, July 13, 2026

Dear Members of the Yale Community,

Many of you have written to me in the past week regarding investigations by the Department of Justice (DOJ) into the admissions processes of Yale School of Medicine, Yale College, and Yale Law School. At Yale, our standard is to refrain from commenting on ongoing legal matters to protect the integrity of the process for Yale. I am making an exception in this instance because I am seeing speculation and misinformation spreading, and it is causing concern in our community. I

Ka Ching!

If you missed them

Straws in the Wind - Part 390

Yale deal?

You have to read between the lines

Limited Hours and Service

Straws in the Wind - Part 389

Grants' Tomb

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 175

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► 2022 (719)

► 2021 (710)

► 2020 (914)

► 2019 (671)

► 2018 (595)

► 2017 (666)

► 2016 (715)

► 2015 (765)

► 2014 (704)

► 2013 (776)

► 2012 (839)

► 2011 (738)

► 2010 (431)

► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

recognize that this can happen when there is an absence of information, so I want you to hear the facts directly from me.

On May 14, the DOJ issued findings based on its investigation into the admissions policies and practices of the Yale School of Medicine. The DOJ also has pending investigations into the admissions processes of Yale College and Yale Law School.

These investigations concern university compliance with federal law; specifically, a federal statute, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. The U.S. Supreme Court required colleges and universities across the country, including Yale, to adhere to new legal standards in admissions in its 2023 decision in Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard. As a university committed to the rule of law, we take that obligation seriously.

When the DOJ issues findings of an investigation, federal law provides a process for the parties to engage in seeking a voluntary resolution. It is a standard and important practice that lawyers for the involved parties and the government participate in conversation and exchange of information to determine whether they can resolve the matter without further legal action. Yale is currently engaged in this process of talking and listening. It is a required and reasonable step, and we are participating in good faith.

We are approaching these matters with five fundamental principles. First, we are wholeheartedly committed to safeguarding academic freedom. Our students and faculty have the intellectual freedom to study, teach, and publish according to their scholarly interests in keeping with the standards of their discipline. Second, Yale must maintain the right to decide who we admit and hire in accordance with the law. Third, we hold dear our university's tradition of protecting free expression on our campus. Fourth, we are determined to continue advancing Yale's mission of education, research, and scholarship. And fifth, we make all our decisions by prioritizing our responsibilities to our students, faculty, staff, and patients, as well as the university as a whole.

These are the principles that guide us in how we engage in any legal inquiry, but they are not the whole of what we ask of ourselves. We are also guided by the long-time efforts of our faculty, students, staff, and alumni who help us engage in a process of continual self-assessment. The most recent examples of such reflection relevant to admissions culminated this past spring, with the Presidential Council on Yale College Admissions and the Committee on Trust in Higher Education.

Guided by their recommendations, we began refining our admissions processes based on a high standard of candor and on an unambiguous fact: We are proud of our students, who come from across the country and around the world and bring a multitude of talents, experiences, and ideas. For example, we have further clarified on Yale College's admissions website the magnitude of academic achievement of our current students, so applicants are aware of what they need to accomplish. We now state explicitly that academic strength has long been the predominant criterion in our holistic evaluation of applicants, and the overwhelming majority of admitted students score in the ninety-fifth percentile or higher on the SAT or ACT. Throughout the university, we have bolstered our training so that readers and decision-makers understand the law and federal guidelines for admissions, and our faculty and staff in admissions will keep studying how to continually enhance the admissions process based on our own high standards and the requirements of the law.

I know there are divergent views about admissions policy in general and these investigations in particular. I very much want to hear those views and welcome your reply to this message. And I am so grateful to everyone who has already sent me their thoughtful questions and advice.

I will update you when I have more news to share. In the meantime, I will continue to draw on my experience as a student, professor, and university leader to navigate the present moment. Amid this uncertainty, you can be certain of my promise to the entire Yale community: my decisions will be guided by what I believe is in the best interests of our university.

Sincerely,

Maurie McInnis

President

Professor of the History of Art

--

Source: https://president.yale.edu/posts/2026-07-13-message-from-the-president.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, Yale

Today at Noon

UC Confident Retiree Series: Five Steps to a More Financially Secure Retirement

JULY 15 Steps to take to help maximize your retirement income.

What will you learn in this seminar

Actionable steps to help you make the most of your retirement income and savings by understanding how to address key challenges like inflation and market volatility.

Who should attend?

Anyone interested in a more financially secure retirement.

Go to:
https://fmr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iC9_nSdvTQatNxNTCBtOWw#/registration.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: uc retirement

Straws in the Wind - Part 403

From Inside Higher Ed: *For the first time since he started teaching Welfare Economics and Social Choice Theory nearly two decades ago, Brown University economics professor Roberto Serrano gave his students a take-home midterm this spring. Quite a few students had expressed anxiety about being in a classroom after a gunman killed two students and injured nine in a December mass shooting at Brown, and so "it was appropriate," he said, to allow students to take their exams at home.*

But by the end of the semester, Serrano regretted the decision. Dozens of students in the class likely used artificial intelligence to cheat and earn perfect or near-perfect scores on their midterm, he said. Serrano in turn made the final exam in-person, which led more than a dozen students to drop the course and even more to fail it. Administrators' response to the widespread cheating event has been "meek," he said, and the incident has raised questions about how universities can—and should—respond to AI-enabled cheating at scale.

His welfare economics class typically attracted up to 30 students, but this spring he taught 86—an increase he attributes to the promised take-home exams. When the midterm came along, the average score was 96 percent. "Historically the average grade in the midterm of this course has ranged between 65 and 80 [percent], and this exam was harder than the exams I wrote in the past, because … take-home is an opportunity to challenge the class a little bit more, given that you're giving the students unlimited time," Serrano said.

...In a message to students after the midterm that he shared with Inside Higher Ed, he told them he suspected many of them of using AI to cheat and, with the blessing of his dean, changed the final exam to an in-person test. Serrano heard crickets from his students, but 18 of them subsequently dropped the class. Nine students remained enrolled but did not take the final exam. And Serrano said the results proved him right; three students earned a zero, and the average score on the final was 48.6 percent—by far a historic low, he said. Previously, the average final exam score had never dropped below 65 percent. Only a few students scored similarly to how they did on the midterm. In a follow-up message to students, Serrano announced the midterm was void and the final exam would be worth 80 percent of the students' final grade. Any student that scored a 40 percent or higher on the final earned a passing grade—previously, he set the passing line at 50 percent or higher. In total, 19 students failed the class...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty/learning-assessment/2026/07/08/brown-professor-suspects-most-his-class-used-ai-cheat.

==

Not a surprise:

Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMRyLzUzpuU.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University, plagiarism

Everyone is entitled to the Regents' Opinion

Generally, the Regents do not take political positions. But as an exception, they do advocate for UC on occasion, especially when items directly affecting UC are on the ballot.

At today's Regents meeting, the board is expected to endorse the housing bond which the legislature has put on the November ballot, and which allocates some money for UC student housing. From Item B4:

On June 25, 2026, the Governor signed Senate Bill 417 (Limón), the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026. The measure placed Proposition 1 on the November 3, 2026 ballot, which asks voters to approve an $11.25 billion statewide housing bond. The bond includes $350 million for the Higher Education Student Housing Grant Program to be divided equally between the University of California and the California State University system. If the bond passes, the University would be eligible for $175 million to develop affordable student housing projects. The President recommends that the Board of Regents endorse Proposition 1, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026...

Full item at https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july26/b4.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, UC Regents

Dubinett & Hawgood Testimony

Steve Dubinett - dean of the UCLA med school - and Sam Hawgood - chancellor of UC-San Francisco - testified yesterday at the House Committee on Education & Workforce. The topic was DEI in medical education. Both defended their institutions, but both acknowledged problems that had arisen in particular courses at their campuses. Both indicated the courses referenced had been replaced and that the new versions were in compliance with appropriate standards, would be given only by campus faculty, and would comply with university rules limiting use of courses for unrelated purposes.

You can see their opening statements to the Committee at the link below:

https://ia902809.us.archive.org/1/items/newsom-7-1-2026-savings-accounts-for-kids/Dubinett-Hawgood%20testimony%20on%20DEI%20in%20med%20schools%207-14-2026.mp4.

The full hearing is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4EeaPsxa2s.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, health care, politics, UC-San Francisco, UCLA

Fast Run

In contrast to our previous post on this blog, consider this item from the Sacramento Bee:

At a meeting Tuesday morning, Board of Regents Chair Maria Anguiano said she anticipates a recommendation from the Academic Senate within the 2026-2027 academic year. "The goal of this review is not to rehash old questions or data but an opportunity to take a fresh look at how we define and evaluate college readiness in a rapidly changing world," Anguiano said. "Our responsibility is not to begin with answers but with the discipline to ask better questions, to understand the evidence, to hear diverse perspectives, to deliberate thoughtfully and to make wise, long-term decisions."

The Academic Senate, which represents faculty across the system, will lead the review process through the year while the board deepens its own understanding of the broad questions at hand, she said. In a statement, Academic Senate Chair Ahmet Palazoglu confirmed a policy recommendation would be provided by June 2027. A new plan for the review process, he said, would be shared after the Academic Council meeting on July 22...

Full story at: https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article316506622.html.

So everything depends on whether you read the San Francisco Chronicle or the Sacramento Bee.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:03 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC, UC Regents

Slow Walk

The San Francisco Chronicle carries a "timeline" of what is supposed to happen with regards to the SAT issue:

July to September 2026: The Academic Senate's influential Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, known as BOARS, created the admissions roadmap and will spend the summer recruiting experts for Workgroup 1. This panel of at least 13 professors, four administrators and one K-12 representative will consider the pros and cons of restoring standardized test scores to UC's admissions criteria.

BOARS will also recruit experts for Workgroup 2: at least 13 UC professors, one from California State University, four administrators and three K-12 representatives. This group will study whether the combination of high school courses needed to qualify for UC admission, known as "A-G" requirements — history/social science, English, math, science, foreign language, arts and an elective — adequately prepare students for success at UC.

May 15, 2027: Final reports are due from both workgroups. (The two are A-G workgroup and the SAT workgroup.)

June 4, 2027: The workgroups will present their reports to BOARS.

Mid-June 2027: BOARS will share the groups' findings and recommendations with "stakeholders." These include UC admissions staff, students, and representatives of public schools, CSU, community colleges, private universities and higher education nonprofits.

July 2, 2027: BOARS will discuss the stakeholders' comments.

July 31, 2027: This is the deadline for BOARS to approve the workgroups' recommendations and, if it does so, to send them to the Academic Senate's executive committee, known as the Academic Council.

August-October 2027: The Academic Council will oversee a "systemwide review" of the recommendations.

November 2027: If the council approves the recommendations, it will share them with the Assembly of the Academic Senate, a group of about 60 leading professors who consider legislative issues affecting more than one campus.

If the Assembly approves the recommendations, it will send them to UC President James Milliken and Provost Katherine Newman.

Milliken will then decide whether to forward the recommendations to the regents.

Early 2028: If the regents receive recommendations to change how high school students apply to UC, such as requiring them to submit SAT/ACT scores, the board is likely to discuss and vote on those changes during the first half of the year.

Fall 2028: If the regents have voted to reinstate admissions tests, high school students would have to submit their scores now to enter as freshmen in fall 2029.

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Source of timeline: https://www.sfchronicle.com/college-admissions/article/uc-sat-act-return-explained-22339345.php.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:01 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

The Roadmap: Now you see it...

Los Angeles Times

California joins lawsuit to block Paramount deal

Trump says toll coming for strait passage

'Dangerous heat' to broil the Southland this week

UC rescinds plan to evaluate testing

Keep Kahlo in Mexico, suit says

Empty for decades, lot to get temporary art park

Blog readers may have noticed an article in today's LA Times on the SAT issue. Specifically, the article notes that just as the Regents meetings are about to begin, including issues of admissions criteria, links on the systemwide Academic Senate page to the "roadmap" seem to be disappearing.

The University of California admissions board has voted to rescind — for now — its plan to study whether to resume SAT or ACT requirements in admissions, a move that leaves one of the university's most closely watched debates unclear a day before the Board of Regents meets in San Francisco... At a Friday meeting, BOARS voted to pull back on the plan, and the links that explained it — which appeared on the UC website late last week — have been removed...

In a statement Monday evening, UC Academic Senate Chair Ahmet Palazoglu said the senate was "not rescinding its commitment to a comprehensive review of standardized testing in admissions." The admissions board is a committee of the senate...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-07-13/uc-suspends-plan-to-reconsider-sat-in-admissions.

Yours truly is not a fan of disappearing documents. And it turns out the old links are still available. So, we have put the roadmap plan at a new location where it won't disappear:

Executive Summary:

https://ia600601.us.archive.org/32/items/blog-3rd-qtr-2026/UC-academic-senate-boars-roadmap-executive%20summary%2006-11-2026.pdf.

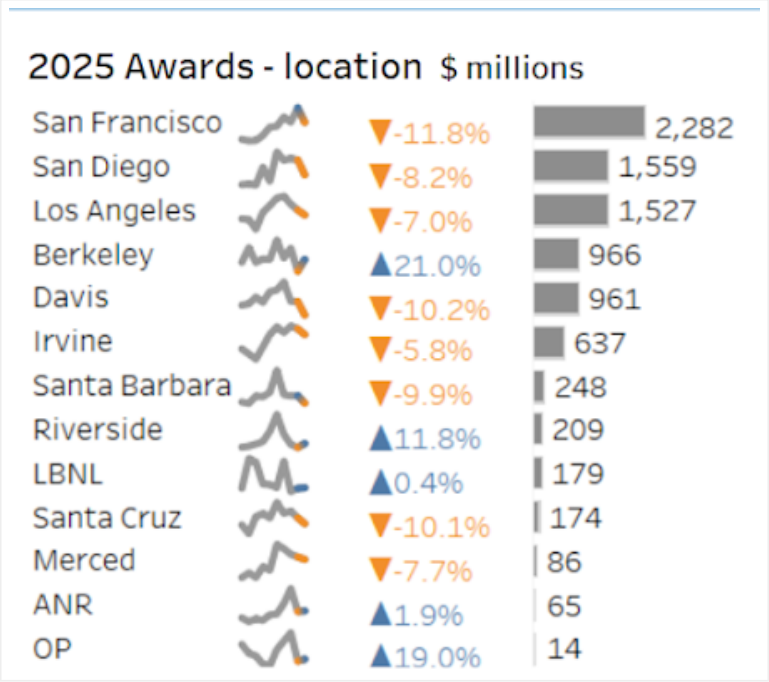
Full Roadmap:

https://ia600601.us.archive.org/32/items/blog-3rd-qtr-2026/UC-academic-senate-boars-roadmap-06-05-2026.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 7:14 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC, UC Regents

Cuts



From KVIE-Sacramento: *Federal cuts from the Trump administration have affected programs and research at UC Davis. The university lost about 10% of its overall grant funding over the past year, a steeper decline than all but one of the other UC campuses. The funding cuts make some programs less stable and limit the university's pipeline of top-tier scientists.*

UC Davis received less grant money in fiscal year 2025 than during any of the previous 15 years, after adjusting for inflation, the latest UC system data shows. Federal, state, nonprofit and private awards totaled $961 million in fiscal year 2025, down about 10% from the previous year. Among the 10 UC campuses, only one, the University of California at San Francisco, saw a larger decline in award funding than UC Davis. The entire system saw a 6% decrease in grant funding...

Full story at https://www.abridged.org/news/federal-cuts-hit-uc-davis-hard/.

--

Chart above from https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/about-us/information-center/awards-and-proposals. Note: Figures refer to research grants from all sources.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: fund raising, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 402

From the NY Times: *The number of students admitted to Ph.D. programs this fall dropped 15 percent from the previous year, according to data from over 50 top research universities, raising fears that the nation's capacity to produce new science could be diminished. The decline is driven, in part, by a chaotic and unpredictable federal funding environment under the Trump administration, as federal cuts are promised and then reversed, and budgets remain unclear. A reduction in doctoral students could mean fewer scholars at universities to teach and mentor undergraduates. Higher education leaders also worry that, if the declines continue, there will be fewer researchers to power a rapidly evolving scientific work force.*

The data showing the decrease comes from 55 universities, all of them members of the Association of American Universities, an invitation-only organization that includes 69 of the most prestigious research institutions in the United States. The data collection was conducted by another group, the Association of American Universities Data Exchange. Schools in A.A.U. confer half of the nation's research doctorates, according to the association...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/06/us/research-universities-fewer-phds-science.html.

Note: In the 1950s, Sputnik had the reverse effect:

MAGA seems to want to recreate the 1950s, except for that part.

--
Cartoon from https://www.archives.gov/files/legislative/resources/education/cold-war-in-political-cartoons/primary-source-sheets.pdf.

Removed

Sometimes, items that appear on the preliminary Regents agenda are removed before the actual meeting.

Item F5 - an action item that was on the agenda for tomorrow - has been removed from the agenda of the Finance and Capital Strategies Committee. The item:

UCLA West Valley Medical Center Replacement Hospital and Parking Structure, UCLA Health, Los Angeles Campus: Preliminary Plans Funding and External Financing

Apparently, somebody decided it was not yet ready for prime time.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UC Regents, UCLA

Let's do it again, let's do it again, let's...

SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD
SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD
To keep repeating the same thing over and over, often to the annoyance of others.

From EdSource: *As the University of California weighs whether to reinstate the SAT in admissions, another option is also on the table: using California's existing standardized test administered to high school juniors. The committee charged with exploring the pros and cons of bringing back the SAT and ACT* ***will also investigate the possibility of using Smarter Balanced exams****, the annual tests given to 11th graders in California public schools to measure proficiency in math and English, as an admissions tool...*

After UC's Board of Regents voted in 2020 to suspend the use of the SAT and ACT in admissions, the system's Academic Senate created a committee to explore whether the Smarter Balanced test could be a replacement. The committee ultimately recommended against it. *A 2021 committee report concluded that the Smarter Balanced test was not designed to be a high-stakes exam and that repurposing it as one would likely lead to the same inequitable practices associated with the SAT, such as expensive third-party test preparation courses.**

Mary Gauvain, a now-retired professor of psychology, co-chaired that committee. She said in an interview that she was "completely surprised" to learn that UC is reconsidering the use of Smarter Balanced scores in admissions. "I think our findings still stand. I don't see any reason to look at it again," she said.

*Some UC faculty were also caught off guard, including Zvezda Stankova, a UC Berkeley math professor. Stankova was among the five Berkeley professors who crafted an open letter calling on UC to reinstate the SAT and ACT as an admissions requirement for students in science, technology, engineering and math programs. That letter now has more than 2,300 signatures.** Stankova said she prefers the SAT and ACT because the exams include more Algebra II concepts than the 11th grade Smarter Balanced exam. "I'm not saying it's a bad test, but it does not have the sophistication of the SAT," she said.*

Volz, the BOARS chair, said he is aware of the 2021 recommendation. But he added that "the general sentiment" among the members of BOARS is that "a lot has changed" since that report

was published, including the proliferation of artificial intelligence and its impact on student learning.

"We weren't sure if we could assume that those (conclusions) were still valid," he said...

Full story at https://edsource.org/2026/uc-considers-smarter-balanced-exams/761765.

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*https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov21/b3attach2.pdf.

**https://ucstudentsuccess.org/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC

Monday, July 13, 2026

Testing not on the agenda

As blog readers will likely know, there has been a flurry of news articles about the Regents abandonment of the SAT as an admission criterion.* And there seems to be an assumption that the Regents will do something about the issue at the upcoming meetings this week. But doing something seems both unlikely and unrealistic. While the Regents do have one element of admissions on their agenda for discussion, that item concerns the A-G requirements for high school courses. The documentation for the A-G topic references the SAT only its historical context and only in passing.**

Of course, the SAT topic could be brought up by Regents during that discussion, or by anyone during public comments. But without documentation directly addressing the issue, it is hard to imagine big decisions being made about it.

We have noted in past posting, however, that a full discussion would be possible for the September meetings. So the question is whether the Regents want to have the necessary documentation prepared for them over the summer.

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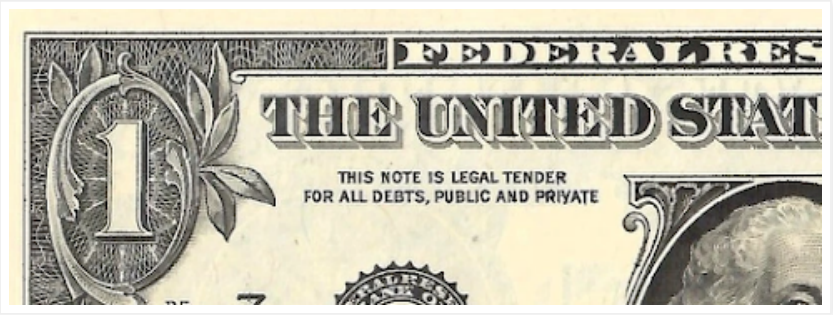
*Example: https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-07-09/uc-sat-act-return-admissions-math-skills.

**https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july26/a3.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: admissions, UC, UC Regents

Unrelated



Do I really have to point out that lack of new pennies had nothing to do - Zero, Zilch - with the decision to not accept cash at ASUCLA operations? It's an excuse, not a necessity.

Due to the federal discontinuation of pennies, ASUCLA, including UCLA Store locations, will be adjusting how cash is accepted for payment.

Starting Saturday, January 3, 2026 ASUCLA will be transitioning to cashless operations at the below locations:

All ASUCLA Restaurants

U.S. Post Office Express at Ackerman Union

This transition to a cashless payment system will support faster service and more efficient operations.

Cash will be accepted only at selected registers at the following UCLA Store locations. Please provide exact change when paying with cash at:

UCLA Store at Ackerman Union, including the Market

UCLA Store - Hill Top Shop

LuValle Commons Store

Health Sciences Store

Thank you for your understanding and continued support as we adapt to limited cash availability.

Source: https://www.asucla.ucla.edu/cashless-campus.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 401

From WLRN: *In a move that students and their attorney allege is a gross violation of the First Amendment, Florida International University is moving forward with disciplinary actions against seven students who participated in a silent protest at a campus event in March. The students*

this week were given a written reprimand, and are being ordered to record videos about FIU policies they allegedly violated.

They told WLRN they worry the videos could force them to express opinions they do not agree with. The basic facts of the case are undisputed: A group of students sat in the audience while FIU President Jeanette Nuñez held an on-campus event March 13 with former Major League Baseball star Alex Rodriguez. About a half hour into the program, students stood up and unveiled shirts that said "ICE OFF FIU," and stood silently for a few minutes. They then left the event. FIU maintains that the silent protest violated a campus policy against "expressive activities" taking place indoors...

Full story at https://www.wlrn.org/government-politics/2026-07-01/fiu-students-silent-protest-immigration.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, Florida International U

Yale Deal - Part 4 (If at first, you don't succeed...)

From the Yale Daily News: *Yale proposed a second settlement offer to the Trump administration after the first was rejected, Sen. Richard Blumenthal LAW '73 said at a Friday town hall on Yale's campus. "I've been told very reliably that Yale has made an offer of settlement, which was rejected, and then made a second offer of settlement, which may still be pending, with a document that could be taken as an agreement for settlement," the senator said. Blumenthal has spoken with Yale President Maurie McInnis twice, he said.*

A Yale professor briefed on the negotiations told the News ahead of the conference that the first proposal had been rejected, and that Yale had submitted a second proposal, in accordance with Blumenthal's remarks.

...The senator added on Friday that Yale offered both settlements to the Trump administration without demand. Blumenthal said that from what he has been told, "Yale has twice made offers without any demand, in other words, negotiating against itself, which is rule number one of litigation: do not negotiate against yourself." University spokesperson Karen Peart wrote in an email to the News on Tuesday that "it is Yale's longstanding practice not to discuss the specifics of any ongoing legal matter." When asked following the Friday press conference to confirm that the first proposal was rejected and a second one was submitted, Peart wrote, "we have nothing further to add to our statement." ...

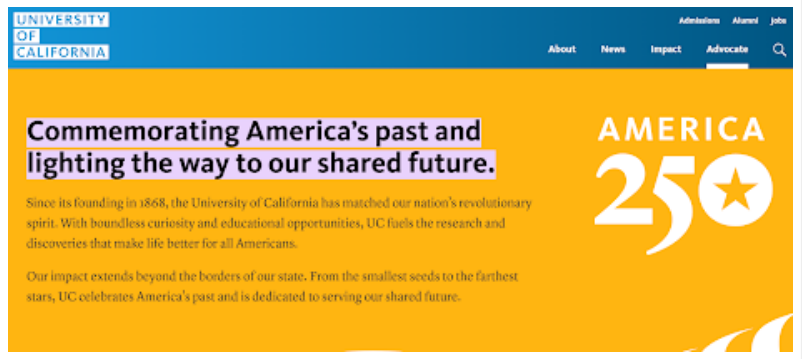
Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/yale-offers-trump-administration-second-proposal-after-first-is-rejected.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Yale

Sunday, July 12, 2026

The Absent Word


UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
About
News
Impact
Advocate
Commemorating America's past and lighting the way to our shared future.
Since its founding in 1868, the University of California has matched our nation's revolutionary spirit. With boundless curiosity and educational opportunities, UC fuels the research and discoveries that make life better for all Americans.
Our impact extends beyond the borders of our state. From the smallest seeds to the farthest stars, UC celebrates America's past and is dedicated to serving our shared future.
AMERICA 250

At their upcoming meetings, the Regents will be hearing a presentation - actually a series of presentations - on "UC Inspires: Celebrating America's 250th and UC's Contributions to the Nation." The reports highlight UC's connections with the VA, medical and scientific developments, contributions to agriculture, and economic importance.

Yours truly did a search on the source document attached to the Regents' agenda and noted that the word "diversity" appears nowhere within it.* The closest it comes to that once-popular word is a highlighting of access to first generation college students.

Just an observation...

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*https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july26/board7.14.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UC Regents

Delivery?

UCLA and many other campuses were served by robot delivery of food through a company known as Starship Technologies. But at the end of the spring quarter, Starship decided to pull out of the college delivery market and concentrate in other areas. ASUCLA announced the end of Starship deliveries as of June 11.* An article about the halt to all colleges by Starship also appeared.**

There is another company, Coco, reported to be a UCLA start-up, providing robot delivery in the LA area. Both companies apparently service UCLA from Westwood restaurants. It is unclear what ASUCLA will do about robot delivery now that Starship has pulled out.

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*https://www.asucla.ucla.edu/ucla/starship-robots.

**https://futurism.com/robots-and-machines/delivery-robots-leave-college.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 400

From Mississippi Today: *Mississippi financial aid officials say almost 27,000 college students could receive less state financial aid for the spring semester in 2027, and a student loan repayment program for teachers will not make awards this fiscal year, because of a budget shortfall. The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid needs $7.3 million more to account for growing demand for its college aid programs. The funding gap could force the financial aid office to cut programs that help low-income students, as well as hundreds of foster youths and future teachers pay, for college.*

In 2025, Mississippi financial aid officials expanded eligibility for state aid programs, reducing the number of credit hours required for students to be considered full time from 15 to 12. As a result, 4,520 more students qualified for state-funded grants. State lawmakers also raised the income eligibility for the Higher Education Legislative Plan, or HELP, the state's only need-based grant that covers up to four years of college, from $39,500 to $42,500. Demand for state aid has risen faster than anticipated, said Jennifer Rogers, executive director of the state aid office...

Full story at https://mississippitoday.org/2026/06/29/mississippi-state-aid-shortfall/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics

Where are the numbers?

A recent article in the Daily Bruin reports on layoffs in campus IT services, purportedly linked to budgetary pressures.* The individuals involved are represented by UPTE-CWA and the union has raised some issues regarding contractual layoff procedures - which presumably can be adjudicated through the grievance process. The layoffs reportedly are also linked to the "One IT" initiative which aims to centralize IT functions, in part for cybersecurity reasons.

That centralization project is a topic in itself, but to the extent that budget concerns are part of the motivation, the layoffs should serve as a reminder that we finished fiscal year 2025-26 as of June 30th. That fact, in turn, should jog memories of past budget-related events, notably the sacking of UCLA's CFO after he released a forecast for the now-finished fiscal year and said that prior budgetary releases by UCLA were garbage, a Very Bad Thing to say.

Since the 2025-26 fiscal year is now behind us, it is reasonable to ask when we will see an accounting for that year. We have raised questions in the past about the ability of Murphy Hall to produce such numbers on a speedy basis. We have noted that a very big chunk of the UCLA budget is found in the the health enterprise, which seems to be relatively autonomous and whose numbers may not in fact be readily available to the folks in Murphy Hall.

But all this is outside speculation, albeit based on past performance. Murphy Hall could prove us wrong by simply producing a basic income statement and balance sheet for fiscal 2025-26. Presumably, in this age of computers and AI, that should now be a routine task. Unless, of course, it isn't.

So, where are the numbers?

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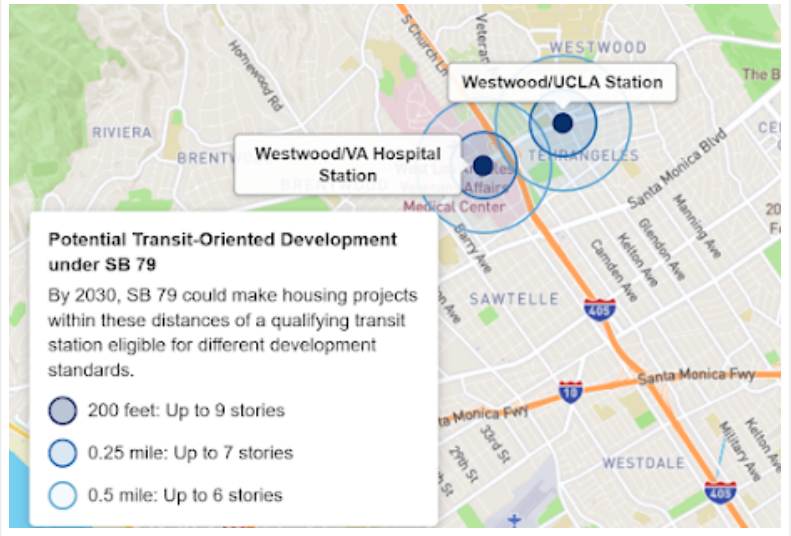
*https://dailybruin.com/2026/07/08/ucla-cuts-27-dts-jobs-amid-budget-deficit-upte-cwa-9119-alleges-contract-violation.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Potential New Construction in Westwood


Westwood/UCLA Station
Westwood/VA Hospital Station
WESTWOOD
RIVIERA
SAWTELLE
WESTDALE
Santa Monica Fwy
Potential Transit-Oriented Development under SB 79
By 2030, SB 79 could make housing projects within these distances of a qualifying transit station eligible for different development standards.
200 feet: Up to 9 stories
0.25 mile: Up to 7 stories
0.5 mile: Up to 6 stories

From the Daily Bruin: *A California law that took effect Wednesday could bring more high-density housing to Westwood by loosening development restrictions around major transit stops. California Senate Bill 79, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in October, overrides local zoning rules for residential, mixed, or commercial properties to allow for high-density residential development near transit stations. The law identifies different transit stops across the state – either labeled as Tier 1 or Tier 2 – as locations for development...*

Tier 1 stops connect to heavy rail transit or very high-frequency commuter rail, and are thus afforded more development rights. Tier 1 developments can reach heights up to 75 feet and densities between 100 and 120 units per acre. Tier 2 stops are served by light rail transit, high-frequency commuter rail, or bus services. Tier 2 projects are allowed heights up to 65 feet and densities ranging from 80 to 100 units per acre. Two Tier 1 transit stations near UCLA, which are part of the LA Metro D Line and are set to open in 2027, qualify under SB 79, according to a June map from the Southern California Association of Governments...

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Tier 1 stops connect to heavy rail transit or very high-frequency commuter rail, and are thus afforded more development rights. Tier 1 developments can reach heights up to 75 feet and densities between 100 and 120 units per acre. Tier 2 stops are served by light rail transit, high-frequency commuter rail, or bus services. Tier 2 projects are allowed heights up to 65 feet and densities ranging from 80 to 100 units per acre. Two Tier 1 transit stations near UCLA, which are part of the LA Metro D Line and are set to open in 2027, qualify under SB 79, according to a June map from the Southern California Association of Governments...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/07/04/sb-79-takes-effect-paving-the-way-for-more-high-density-housing-in-westwood.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Straws in the Wind - Part 399

From the Yale Daily News: *A report that Yale is seeking to settle with the federal government has drawn an array of calls, including from a Connecticut senator, for the University to resist the most direct political pressure it has yet received during President Donald Trump's second term. The New York Times reported... that, according to anonymous sources, a Department of Justice investigation that deemed the Yale School of Medicine's practices discriminatory against white and Asian applicants had expanded to probe undergraduate and law school admissions. The federal inquiry, which came in light of a 2023 Supreme Court decision banning race-conscious admissions, has prompted Yale to propose a settlement with the Trump administration and hire external counsel, according to the report...*

Formed last spring, Stand Up For Yale emerged as Yale and its peer institutions navigated increased scrutiny under the second Trump administration. The group encouraged alumni to advocate against the endowment tax hike that ultimately passed last July and which will subject Yale's endowment returns to an 8 percent tax rate beginning on Wednesday. The hike is estimated to cost the University around $300 million per year. The DOJ investigation marks the most intense individualized pressure that Yale has received amid the second Trump administration's sweeping pressure campaign against elite institutions. The University has thus far been spared from the targeted funding freezes that have pushed many of its peer institutions to cut deals with the government...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/blumenthal-among-alumni-urging-yale-to-resist-amid-reported-trump-talks.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, politics, Yale

Yale Deal - Part 3

From the Yale Daily News: *University President Maurie McInnis has emailed top Yale College Council leaders in response to backlash against reported settlement negotiations between Yale and the Trump administration, YCC President Alex William Chen '28 told the News on Tuesday. McInnis' email to Chen and YCC Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28 marks her first reported response to a series of public campaigns that have mounted after The New York Times reported last month that Yale is negotiating a settlement with the federal government. The negotiations come after the Justice Department expanded its investigation into Yale's undergraduate and law school admissions, the Times reported. Chen declined to comment on the content of McInnis' emailed message, citing that he needed to "look through it a little more carefully."*

...The alumni group Stand Up For Yale has created a petition urging McInnis, Provost Scott Strobel and the trustees to publicly commit that Yale will not enter into any deal with the federal

government that compromises its diversity or independence. The group sent the administration a copy of the letter on Monday afternoon with about 2,770 signatories, organizer Jessica Marsden '08 LAW '14 wrote in an email to the News, but as of Tuesday evening, the group had not received a response. The petition remains open and had reached 3,790 signatures, including current students, as of Tuesday night.

...Yale spokesperson Karen Peart wrote in an email to the News that it is "Yale's longstanding practice not to discuss the specifics of any ongoing legal matter." The comment came in response to the News' inquiry before the phone banking event on Tuesday about the pushback on the reported negotiations. Peart emphasized the University's "commitment to students' free expression, academic freedom, and Yale's ability to determine who is admitted in accordance with the law," and wrote that Yale is "committed to supporting the members of our community in their beliefs and values." She did not confirm or deny Yale's reported negotiations with the Trump administration...

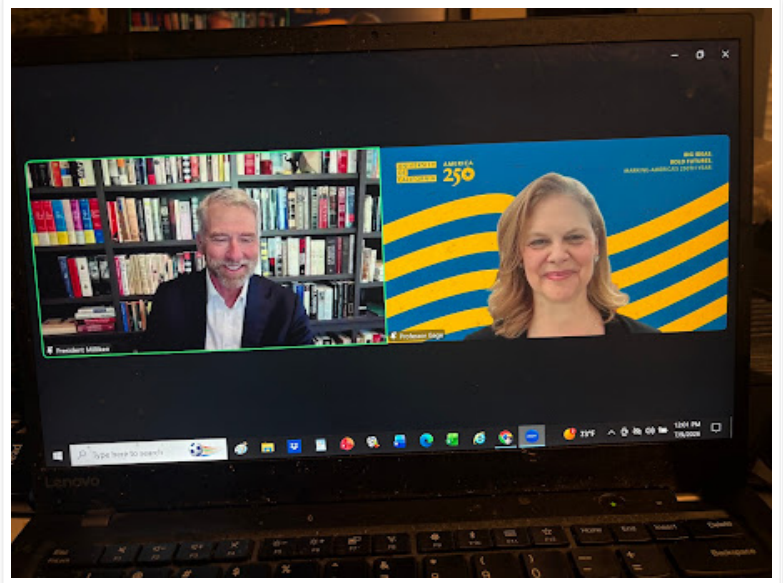
Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/mcinnis-emails-ycc-heads-chen-says-as-reported-trump-talks-face-backlash.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Yale

Friday, July 10, 2026

Another Milliken Interview



UC President Milliken did one of his interviews, this time with Yale historian Beverly Gage, on July 9. The rationales for the interview were a) the 250th anniversary of American independence and b) the Yale report on higher education's standing in public opinion that has garnered national attention.

Professor Gage discusses a roadtrip around the USA to visit sites of historical significance (including Disneyland) and the significance of the Yale report. You can find the one-hour conversation at:

https://ia902809.us.archive.org/1/items/newsom-7-1-2026-savings-accounts-for-kids/Milliken-Gage%20interview%207-9-2026.mp4. [Audio with still picture.]

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: Milliken, UC, Yale

TMT

From time to time, we look at the status of the Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT) project on Hawaii. UC is involved in the project, along with other institutions. The issue sometimes comes up at public comments during UC Regents meetings. Perhaps it will at the upcoming July meetings. As blog readers will know, the project was stalled by local opposition

From Hawaii News Now: *Dozens of people — including tribal leaders, members of Mauna Kea Education and Awareness from Hawaii Island and others — delivered a petition... opposing construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Maunakea to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in Palo Alto, California, which had committed $250 million to the project. The group also delivered a copy of a cease-and-desist letter that had been sent to TMT. "Over 500,000 people are here with us today in the spirit of saying no TMT on Maunakea," Pua Case of Mauna Kea Education and Awareness told Hawaii News Now.*

"Should the Thirty Meter Telescope be considered for the Caltech decommissioned site or back to the northern plateau, we are asking them to halt any further funding for the Thirty Meter Telescope and because they're the largest single donor funder. That's why we're here," Case said...

The petition comes as TMT is looking at another site on Maunakea. TMT's project manager told the UH [University of Hawaii] Board of Regents last month the project is looking at the site where the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory was decommissioned and removed in 2024. "We have taken a preliminary look of whether we can possibly build TMT on the decommissioned site scientifically, engineering-wise technically and we believe this is very preliminary, of course, and we believe we can," said Dr. Fengchuan Liu, TMT International Observatory project manager...

Full story at https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2026/06/27/tmt-opponents-deliver-petition-major-funder-california/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: CalTech, U of Hawaii, UC, UC Regents

Straws in the Wind - Part 398

From the Virginia Mercury: *Higher education leaders in Virginia and Ohio announced... that they will join forces to create a model for three-year bachelor's degrees, cutting the traditional timeframe of obtaining the credential by one year. The move reflects Virginia's strategic plan to better align higher education with student and employer needs and increase affordability. Currently, the laws in Virginia and Ohio require at least 120 semester credit hours to earn a bachelor's degree. By spring 2028, participating institutions are expected to propose two 90-credit degree programs.*

If successful, the 90-credit undergraduate degree would likely require legislative action, depending on how programs are structured. "Virginia's higher education institutions continue to lead the way in innovation, demonstrating a statewide commitment to ensuring higher education

delivers on its value proposition to students and families," said Scott Fleming, the State Council on Higher Education for Virginia's executive director... "Colleges and universities throughout the country are already offering three-year degrees, but there is no national model. This effort will create new pathways for students to pursue their life and career goals while ensuring a rigorous education experience," he added...

Full story at https://virginiamercury.com/briefs/virginia-joins-initiative-to-create-three-year-bachelors-degree-model/.

From MassLive: *Massachusetts students can now earn a bachelor's degree in just three years, following a... by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education. Suffolk University and Merrimack College are the first Massachusetts institutions to receive approval from the state to pilot reduced-credit bachelor's degree programs. "The focus shouldn't be on the inputs, the focus should be on the outcomes," said Board Member Alex Cortez. "What we're trying to do ultimately is create effective pathways that are options for students to achieve their ambitions and their priorities as they individually define them, not us."*

The board voted 10-2 to approve both programs, with one member abstaining. Suffolk in Boston will offer a 94-credit pilot bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration and Innovation. Merrimack in North Andover will pilot 96-credit bachelor's degrees in psychology, communication, criminal justice and business administration. Each reduced-credit degree will include general education requirements and fewer elective courses.

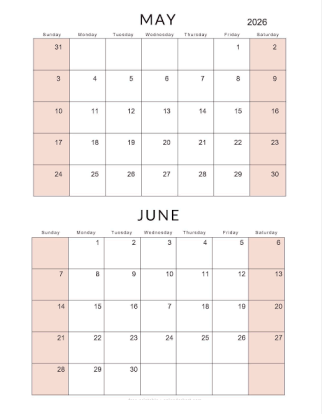
Three-year bachelor's degrees, which typically require around 90 credits instead of the standard 120, remain a subject of debate in higher education. These programs allow students to complete their degree without summer classes. To some higher education leaders, the reduced-credit bachelor's degree is needed to attract more students as the value of higher education faces scrutiny and sticker prices continue to climb. But others fear it will create a two-tiered system of learning and won't be accepted by employers and graduate programs, putting those students at a disadvantage...

Full story at https://www.masslive.com/education/2026/06/students-can-now-complete-a-3-year-bachelors-degree-in-mass-heres-where.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Two Months of the Guv



As blog readers will surely know, Gov. Newsom is termed out and running a not-a-campaign for president in 2028. And as blog readers will also know, we have tracked the governor's activities and preserved them, along with other relevant happenings since the pandemic. We used to do this tracking on a quarterly basis but the governor has been so very busy, especially with his not-a-campaign, so we have shifted to bimonthly collecting.

You can find the videos we preserved for May and June at:

https://archive.org/details/newsom-may-june-2026.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, politics

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 179

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Faculty of Arts and Sciences' sweeping staff restructuring has, at long last, reached Harvard College. In a June 30 College-wide webinar, College Dean David J. Deming unveiled a new administrative structure that would dismantle the Office of Student Services, revive a version of the Freshman's Dean Office, and consolidate major undergraduate services into a smaller set of umbrella offices...*

Deming also confirmed that College staff will be expected to work in person five days a week beginning this fall, a change first reported by The Crimson that has already drawn pushback from staff and union organizers... [The] changes are part of an FAS task force's push to cut staffing costs as the school works to close a $365 million estimated structural deficit... Administrators did not provide a specific timeline for summer layoffs, which could affect up to 25 percent of FAS staff...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/7/7/fas-restructuring-reaches-college/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Thursday, July 9, 2026

No Change?

From the Daily Cal: *A study released by UC Berkeley's Center for Studies in Higher Education found a correlation between the release of ChatGPT in 2022 and an increased share of A grades for classes with take-home assignments at a selective public university in Texas. However, Berkeleytime data collected by The Daily Californian found no equivalent trends at UC Berkeley. Between 2019 and spring 2026, A's at UC Berkeley consistently stayed between 30% and 35%, with a dip during the COVID-19 pandemic likely due to increased pass/no pass courses.*

The study, authored by Igor Chirikov, a senior researcher and director of the Student Experience in the Research University Consortium at the Center for Studies in Higher Education, analyzed 500,000 grades from 2018-25 and found that the share of A grades increased by 13 percentage points at the Texas university. "The pattern shows grades rising mainly where students can use AI on unsupervised take-home work," Chirikov said in an email. "This strongly suggests that AI is substituting for student effort rather than improving underlying skills."

While the study found that grades have been increasing in classes with lots of take-home assignments, grades across UC Berkeley have remained relatively stable. The Daily Cal scraped more than 30,000 course grades beginning in the summer of 2019 from Berkeleytime to assess grade trends at UC Berkeley compared to the university in the study...

Josh Hug, a professor in the electrical engineering and computer sciences department, has found that the amount of AI-generated work submitted by students has increased considerably, but said grades have decreased. In EECS and computer science courses, some classes' failing grades have more than doubled in the spring 2026 semester. Professors attributed the increase to an increased reliance on AI, a lack of math preparedness and understaffing within classes.

"The reason is that they're still getting full scores on the assignments, but they're doing much worse on exams," Hug said. To adapt to AI, Hug has been incorporating frequent in-class quizzes, oral check-ins and "diagnostic questions" on exams. Hug reuses questions from past exams and compares the performance between the two groups of students. "I have found that students do far worse on these problems than they used to, which is my biggest piece of evidence that they don't quite know what they're doing in the way they used to," Hug said.

...History professor Mark Brilliant has run into similar challenges, with students especially struggling with writing...

Full story at https://www.dailycal.org/news/campus/academics/uc-berkeley-shows-no-signs-of-ai-grade-inflation-as-professors-adapt/article_6da85b38-889f-4f80-835a-88cc54a81662.html.

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